

SCRANTON TRIBUNE

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General Manager.

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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MARCH 16, 1894.

Now let every superfluous pole come down at once, without waiting for a second threat of a tax.

If the editor of the Scranton Times had taken the trouble to read THE TRIBUNE's local report of the tax committee hearing, he would have found that the substance of Mr. Paine's speech favoring the dollar pole tax was accurately reproduced. The Times editor seems rather to have preferred not to be embarrassed by mere facts.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

The decision of the Christian ministers of Scranton to inaugurate a movement for better Sunday observance will be welcomed by all honest believers in law and order. Many abuses have developed locally with respect to the Sunday statutes which put Scranton in a false light before visitors and do an injustice to the larger portion of our own citizenship. No one will contend, for instance, that the great mass of Scrantonians are purposely or even consciously antagonistic to law. They have as profound a respect for the saving spirit of the various statutes against gambling, illicit liquor selling and the many other common forms of thoughtless or malicious vice as has any like community anywhere. They would not, if the matter was properly called to their attention, remain for long in an attitude of apparent indifference to these tax phases of law administration which, by slow accumulation, do not look so palpable to them as they appear in the unpractical eyes of observant visitors. Undoubtedly much of the odium into which the anthracite region has fallen in the estimation of outside critics can be traced to this looseness in Sunday observance which, while familiar and almost inoffensive to those accustomed to it from birth, nevertheless looks bad to those who view it from a distance. Overlooking, because having no chance to estimate, the great cordiality, liberality and good-heartedness of our people, they come abruptly to the false conclusion that we are a community of chronic lawbreakers and proceed to give us a correspondingly low rating in the social scale; whereas, if they could enter fully into the spirit of our customs this aspect of criticism would give way to more charitable sympathy and appreciation.

But there are other persons than ministers who should unite to expedite this necessary movement. Incursions as it may appear to name the two classes in such close juxtaposition, the licensed local retailers of malt and spirituous liquors ought to occupy no laggard's place in the efforts to vindicate law and order. We do not expect this assertion to escape sharp criticism. We do not forget the existence in Scranton of earnest men who view in every render of alcoholic stimulant a direct incarnation of Satanic impulses wholly beyond hope. Nevertheless, we are prepared to maintain, before unprejudiced and impartial jurors, that it is the duty of the liquor dealers themselves to work shoulder to shoulder with the ministers and the constables in a concerted effort to promote honest law observance. And why? Are they not each forced by the state to pay \$500 for the privilege of pursuing their business? Is it not to their direct pecuniary gain to have this business continued under the recognition and with the least sanction of the law? But if they do not themselves put forth sincere effort to preserve the law, how can they expect to stem the rising sentiment which disapproves of the license system altogether and which would exterminate their business utterly? Again, why should the respectable retailers be forced to pay the large price asked by the state for its legal protection if they are not afterward to get that promised protection? And, if they do not have any alternative but to pay the price, why do they not co-operate to insist upon getting what they pay for, which is to say, freedom from illegal competition? Whether this question is viewed in its relation to ethics, or simply to vulgar dollars and cents, the conclusion is identical in either case that it is the duty of those licensed retailers who really believe they are engaged in a legitimate business and who are willing that the license law shall be enforced to its strictest letter, provided the enforcement be impartial, thorough and uniform, to enter heartily and earnestly into this coming campaign for law and order.

The last proviso, though, is important. It is fair, it is just. There should be a general move all along the line, and not a singling out of one place or another, in the manner of blackmaling constables or detectives. The remark made upon this subject by a local retailer yesterday deserves thought. He said: "I pay \$500 for a license and I want \$500 of protection from it. I would much rather close my place on Sunday than to keep it open. I would much rather observe all the details of the license law than to overlook one of them. Why? Because if I do the law will last longer and I can remain in business longer. But I cannot afford to pay \$500 license money for a year of 300 business days and yet be compelled to compete with a man next door who sells to customers 365 days each year for the same price. It isn't business." But it is business for the reputable dealer to combine with his reputable brother dealer and prosecute the law-breaker. And that is just what the reputable retailers of this city should do. They should form a mutual protective association, pledge each member to honest law observance and open up their concentrated batter-

ies on the Sunday sellers, the violators of holiday laws and the keepers of unlicensed groceries. If, while they are doing this, they should be helping along the law and order movement of the ministers of Scranton, it will not be a thing which either need regret.

LYNCH LAW is always unjust, no matter how just it may seem.

It would cost the electrical companies very little more to do away with overhead wires and to use subterranean conduits instead, than it costs them now to group their wires into awkward and ugly cables and to keep these cables in repair. The pole and cross bar nuisance must go.

MOB JUSTICE.

The uppermost sentiment inspired by the Stroudsburg lynching yesterday is not one of pity for the victim, he being, according to all the evidence, a villain who well deserved his fate. It is rather one of regret that the orderly processes of the law were not first given a fair test before it was decided to make this mad resort to the passionate tribunal of mob justice. That there were extenuating circumstances of great gravity, so far as the wrath of the populace concerned the person of the fleeing Purves, is readily admitted. Purves' crime had been exceptionally brutal, coarse and inhuman. An aged couple had been shot by him, coolly, deliberately and with absolute no provocation, his sole aim being to secure possession of a small sum of concealed money.

But there is nothing in evidence to prove that the courts of Monroe county would have failed in their duty toward Christian Ehler's burly assassin. They had been accorded no chance to show either competency or incompetence. They were brushed aside by the mob as of small concern compared with its own unnatural appetite for blood; and not satisfied with this excess of animalism, the lynchers added insult to injury by cutting the fatal rope into little pieces, for preservation as mementoes, and strove, as we are told, like hounds to get scraps of bark from the tree that served as Purves' impromptu gallows.

The entire incident is nauseatingly disgraceful. Not a detail of it breathes the spirit of justice or of deliberation. It was a crime crowned by a crime, and the crown is worse, if anything, than the rotten deed it covers. When time shall have cooled the bounding pulses of these amateur Monroe county hangmen they will be assailed by shame and regret for this unholy, this unmanly deed. They will view with deep humiliation the conspicuous share they took in bringing odium on a law-abiding people. And they will sink off in unutterable dissatisfaction with their bloody work, if, indeed, they do not receive an even more public punishment.

Law is not ready to abdicate in Pennsylvania.

In decision to secure B. Fay Mills to preach to them during Dr. Taimage's absence, the Brooklyn Tabernacle congregation may yet be led to wish that the original resignation had resigned.

CITY ELECTRICITY.

President W. W. Scranton's offer to sell the plant of the Electric Light and Heat company to the city of Scranton for \$50,000, the municipality to assume payment of principal and interest on the company's \$200,000 outstanding 5 per cent debenture bonds comes in the nature of a surprise, but is evidently meant in good faith and is entitled to serious consideration. It is for the citizens of Scranton, through their representatives in council, to say what answer shall be made, and to this end a frank discussion is advised.

As a rule it is safe to confine the business of municipal government to a few and simple functions as are consistent with the general welfare, thus leaving large latitude to individual enterprise, judgment and discretion. There was a flurry in favor of municipal paternalism a few years ago. Every Bellamyite in the country and many who were mentally drifting in that direction grew vociferous in demanding city ownership and control of nearly every kind of private industry. But many of the experiments begun while Nationalism was the fad, failed finally lamentably to fulfill expectations, and Bellamyism itself ran its course and dropped out of view.

The present proposition, however, can scarcely be classified as a Bellamyite scheme. The plant in question has long been in successful operation. It has, upon a private footing, been put on a solid basis, and with the city interested in its management and daily creating new business for it, there is difficulty in perceiving why it should not be a fairly satisfactory municipal institution. Its purchase by the city would at least put an end to all uncertainty as to the truth or falsity of asserted overcharges for street lighting under the present system. And it might, also, afford a neat and valuable insight into the interior financial workings of corporations sometimes thought by the uninitiated to be literal mints of golden profit.

The time for discussion is now open. What do the citizens say?

It is no argument in favor of Murphyism, McKensism, Crokerism and Sheehanism to say that sometimes Republican bosses are also corrupt. The duty of good citizenship is to purify its franchise, let the chips fall where they may.

FLOWER TALKS.

Governor Flower, from a Tammany standpoint, is unparadoxically awkward in his efforts to flounder from under the terrible responsibility of his share in the murder of Robert Ross. The governor tries to brush aside his connection with that tragedy by the commonplace comment that it is "absurd" to charge the crime to his failure to sign the non-partisan election inspection bill. Then he adds: "I have sent for Mayor-elect Molloy, and have told him that the bottom of the Troy affair must be reached, no matter who suffers by the exposure. He has promised me to do all in his power to aid in bringing the guilty ones to justice. If I find that there is a disposition to shield

anyone or drop the matter, I shall take a hand in it myself."

The governor reveals by this awkwardness that the tragedy presses home. He is evidently not sufficiently schooled in electoral outrages to view the present crime with unconcern. Perhaps it is not yet too late for him to repent and get out of the unenviable service of his blood stained masters. Individually, the governor has always been reputed a generous and kind hearted man. The sooner, then, he shakes off the ruthless yoke of Murphyism and its kindred collars, the better will it suit upon his conscience and the sounder will be his sleep of nights.

But the governor should first of all things ascertain the value of silence. With talk comes danger. His comments already will return to plague him. "Absurd," is it, to charge him with a share in the crime? Then were the twenty-seven Troy ministers "absurd" in asking him to sign the non-partisan inspection bill. Then were they "absurd" in stating that if he did not sign it, by his outright refusal or failure to act promptly, the old scenes were re-enacted at the Trojan polls, the old crimes committed, the old thugism perpetrated and applauded, he would be a moral participant in them, and would assume moral responsibility for whatever might happen.

No, Governor Flower, you need not "take a hand" in this matter. You have taken one already, and it is a hand that is stained with a suggestive acquiescence in Murphyism's immoral ways.

If the telephone companies are too poor to pay the dollar pole tax, or preferable, to bury their wires, why are they not also too poor to string dangerous big cables through the heart of the city?

BY ACT OF CONGRESS.

The fact that the senate of the United States, which once stood firm against threatened attacks upon the stability of our national credit, has at last succumbed to the pernicious principles of the western Populists comes in the nature of a foreseen misfortune. In 1890 the country sowed the storm of fusionism and discontent, and today it is reaping such a whirlwind as not even its wisest prophets had then dared to foretell. Nor is this the end.

Meanwhile, the other nations of civilization are invited to feast their eyes on the spectacle of an intelligent people trying to keep a one-third-intrinsic-value-and-a-two-thirds-sheer-flat-kind of money upon a parity with money good for its face value in any part of commerce. Meanwhile, the American people, or that portion of them residing west of the Mississippi river and dominating the American congress, will with your kind permission give an illustration of how to revolutionize the multiplication table, perform addition by means of subtraction and add to wealth by vitiating the measure of wealth.

Mr. Cleveland is fortunately an obstinate man. Once upon a time, by clear dint of that wonderful luck of his, he adjusted his mind to the dimension of an intense although narrow belief in a gold standard. It is generally Mr. Cleveland's habit, when once he formulates an opinion, to stick everlastingly to it. He has been known to yield and also to cringe. But not often. The chances that he will not, this time, are in the country's favor.

Thus does chance rather than common sense determine our financial destiny.

SPRINGTIME AFFLUENT.

ALMOST DUE.
Soon will the busy little fly
Improve each shining hour
In spoiling just as many naps
As come within his power.
—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

AS A PROSPECT.
The youth whose best girl effects the "high church,"
And whose faithfully keeping Lent,
Has been living in clover for four or five weeks,
Not a penny upon her he's spent.

But Easter is coming, and full well he knows
He must send her, or give up his tease,
A dozen choice roses, for which he'll be "booked."
Not less than one dollar apiece.
—Brooklyn Eagle.

VERY HAND.
In the spring the young man's fancy
Lightly turns to thoughts of cash;
And he pines his winter winter,
Which, in March, is very cash.
—Philadelphia Record.

A CHANCE.
A poem of passion to him she addressed,
A fiery production which made his heart glad,
And as, says, as he wears it today on his breast,
'Tis the best chest protector a man ever had.
—Spore Moments.

A USEFUL POEM.
Grim winter now no longer shrouds
The valleys and mountain peaks;
Stars slip their faces in white clouds,
With lakes for looking glasses.
—Atlanta Constitution.

WOULD BE WELCOME.
How welcome would the flakes be
That hurry from the sky,
Could we but, pickle snowballs, and
Consume them in July.
—Washington Star.

ONE DOLLAR PER.
Faintly sweet and far away
As the smell of the new mown hay,
Comes the fragrance on the breeze,
Of the early straw-berry.
—Detroit Free Press.

FURNISHED PROOF.
He told his wife, discouraged, he'd
As soon be shot as not,
Then went, as if to prove it,
And got, straightway, half shot.
—Buffalo Courier.

The Milk in the Coconut.
Philadelphia Press.

The signior bill would not have a chance but for the bargain made in 1893 by Governor Cleveland's campaign managers by which the Democrats fused with Populists and inflationists in the west so as to pick up electoral votes in the mining and Pacific coast states. The coalition is costing the country dear, and eastern capital is paying the price.

Requires Sublime Nerve.

It requires colossal impudence for the political party which is responsible for Tweed, McKean and their gigantic steals to stigmatize as a thief and pauper the broken-down veteran who draws his honest stipend of \$5 to \$12 a month from the public treasury.

Elections Must Be Pure.

Brooklyn Eagle & Co.
Tariff, silver, taxation the relief of suffering are questions dwarfed by comparison with those which gravest crime, Troy crime, Buffalo crime and Tammany crime have raised to the front. Against that confederated crime all good citizens should unite. Among them party lines must dissolve until elections can elect and voting can vote in this state and in its cities.

Well, Isn't That What It Is?
March Chalk Daily News.

The SCRANTON TRIBUNE refers to the award of a banner to the county showing the largest percentage of Republican gains at the late election, and remarks that "the fortunate county is rock-ribbed Northampton, the home of that curious economic enigma, Howard Mather."

A Comparison of Wiseco.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
The difference between the Keating and the Democratic party is that the former is a wreck with glory attached to it, while the latter is a wreck with shame all over it.

Franklin's Should Resign.

Wilkes-Barre Record.
The United States congress has evils enough of a political nature to deal with. It must not be tainted with the vices of social depravity.

Has Blacking of His Own.

Attentive Leader.
Blacking might not have any difficulty about blackening the character of Miss Pollard. He has plenty of blacking and to spare.

Will Wear Their Own Duds.

Baltimore American.
Men's fashions this spring, owing to the hard times, will be little changed. In fact, they will generally be the same old units.

Wilkes-Barre Echoes the Cry.

Wilkes-Barre Record.
Gives the fondles, gentlemen, without delay. They have become necessary adjuncts to every well managed trolley system.

Does This Refer to Hines?

Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer.
Men who are loudest shouting against trusts do so to prevent public attention being called to a little clink of their own.

There's Such a Suspicion Afloat.

Atlanta Constitution.
Speaking of a tariff for revenue only, doesn't it seem that some of the brethren are trying to get the revenue first?

Puffer Has His Uses.

Chicago Record.
Senator Puffer has accomplished the feat of chipping off a fragment of Senator Quay's stony silence.

Gene, but Not Forgotten.

Chicago Tribune.
With great presence of mind the Tammany chieftains are still maintaining their absence of body.

If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy any substitute article. Take Hood's and only Hood's.

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